

Jennings County Commissioner Meeting
Government Annex Building, Commissioners Meeting Room
September 10, 2020 6:30 pm

All Commissioners were present

Matt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was an executive session prior to this meeting. The termination of an employee was discussed. This passed unanimously.

Also at the executive session the transfer/rehire of an employee was discussed. Opposition to this passed unanimously.

Dave Turner, Sheriff's Office, said on December 13, 2018 the Commissioners passed an ordinance that allowed the outgoing sheriff to take his duty weapon with him. The new administration came in and in June 2019 the Commissioners voted that any deputy that has 20 years of service gets their duty weapon as well. Dave asked that this be put in the ordinance. Ellie will make a new ordinance or add to the existing ordinance.

Randy Shepherd, Assessor, came before the Commissioners asking for permission to buy some pepper spray for his field rep. The field rep was bit by a dog 2 weeks ago. He has an email from Ellie and she agrees. MK4 was recommended by Animal Control. It was a unanimous vote that the field rep could use the MK4 if needed.

Nicci Lucas, HR, gave the Commissioners a letter from Nathan Floyd on an EAP proposal. He meets with people and tries to mediate their divorce without the cost of them having to hire an attorney. He has an office in town. He is proposing an employee assistance program. The health insurance does not currently offer this. It is a program that offers free and confidential assessments, short term counseling, referrals and follow-up services to employees who have personal and/or work related problems. He can do mediation between staff members, talk to someone about mental or emotional well being, substance abuse problems, stress, grief, etc. EAP usually has a return investment of \$5-\$16/every dollar spent. The normal reimbursable rate from insurance companies is \$70-\$80/hour. He is proposing this:

1. Employees only \$30/employee per year with a max of 6 sessions. This would cost about \$6,000.00 to offer this program.

2. Employees only \$45/employee per year with a max of 12 sessions.

3. Employee and family \$55/employee with a max of 10 sessions.

4. Employee and family \$65/employee with a max of 14 sessions.

Matt is concerned about the cost to the county and how much it will be utilized. He feels this should be approached through the health insurance. Nicci said that was going to be her recommendation, to include EAP in health insurance for next year.

County Commissioner

Page 2

September 10, 2020

Tessia, Auditor, talked about the deferral of payroll taxes. She spoke with Low and BakerTilly about this. An employee can have their payroll tax deferred from September, 2020 through December, 2020. They would end up having to repay that amount. It was recommended that the county not do that. Nicci said she has had several department heads reach out to her in opposition of this. Bob made the motion to not allow the payroll tax deferral. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicci asked about a mask update. There were no screeners at the Annex Building this week. The governor has kept the mask mandatory until the end of September. Council has approved the funds for a continuation of the screener. Matt's recommendation is continue with the mask requirement and he would like to continue the screener if Nicci can find one. Bob made the motion. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Kitty Shepherd, Treasurer, reported that with the CARES Act she is looking into a Kiosk machine. This would enable taxpayers to pay through the Kiosk that would be out front of the building. The Kiosk and installation would be covered under the CARES Act. Kitty explained how the Kiosk would work. There will be no cost to the county until 2022 which will be the annual maintenance agreement. The maintenance agreement is \$4,145.00/year. There are several counties that already have this system. Discussion is held. Bob made the motion to table this until the next meeting. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim from the Highway Dept has an updated INDOT LPA contract that needs signed. This is on O&M. The start date is July, 2021.

Jim asked for the 1st reading on new speed limit ordinance of 30 mph from 90W to Base Road across Bridge 76. Bob made the motion to make this the 1st reading. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tessia said Ellie drafted an update for the Restricted Address Ordinance. This mainly keeps public officials' names off of the GIS. There is some questions on what government officials this covers. They will table the 1st reading until Ellie can clarify this.

Tessia also said they are looking into buying new chairs for the Commissioners Room to be purchased under the CARES Act. The current chairs are cloth and the new ones won't be so that they are easier to wipe off. It would include a total of 59 chairs (9 high back chairs \$246.00/ea and approximately 50 for meeting attendees \$319.00/box of 4). Bob made the motion to purchase new chairs. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

They will order 9 #4 High Back Chairs and 13 boxes of Armless/stackable chairs. Bob made this motion. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Jerri Bliton from 365 Trauma Remediation was next. She said she has been servicing some of the county

County Commissioner

Page 3

September 10, 2020

buildings in Jennings for almost 2 years. She was notified that the CARES Act will cover her services as of March, 2020. She has been working with Jerry Shepherd on getting her invoices to him to get the county offices reimbursed for what they have paid out. She is asking for approval to do the county buildings. Matt asked what is involved. She reported that her chemicals are food-grade safe, they are safe for any type of materials, clothing, carpeting, etc. It is a chlorine based chemical that is electro statically charged, no bleach. It is a spray. It is safe for computers, etc. The cost is approximately \$500 for the annex, Courthouse \$500, HR/Probation Dept \$500, Circuit Probation \$250 and Animal Control \$250 and possibly the COVID testing site \$250. These amounts are weekly. She already does Rescue 20, dispatch, Sheriff Dept and jail. Bob said he thinks it needs tabled until the next meeting, giving them time to look things over and have Ellie review a contract. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Amy Thompson, Clerk, asked if the Commissioners Meeting Room could be used as a polling site as Vernon Baptist is not available. She reported that St. Mary's is not available either and they will be using the Fire Station next to Wal-Mart. Those are the only changes. Bob made the motion to allow this. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob made the motion to sign payroll, claims and prior minutes. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt brought up that he would like for everyone to fly their flag tomorrow in remembrance of 9/11. Remember those that lost their lives and those who stepped forward to help.

John Post gave an update on the town of Vernon. They are looking into fixing the sidewalks on the west side of Pike Street. They are wanting to close automobile traffic in the alley (next to the old restaurant between buildings). They are also wanting to close the entrance off of Pike Street to the county parking lot. The access would be off of the highway and off Montgomery and Brown Street. John said he just wanted to give them a heads up and will have a formal request later.

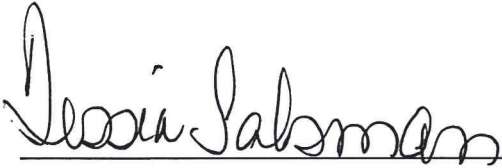
Michelle from Animal Control reported on a person that has loose animals frequently. They have had citations written that he has never paid. They picked up a horse that was loose. They now have impound fees and holding fees. They have had the horse since September 2. The owner is causing issues, not wanting to pay anything. His dogs have killed chickens and goats before. When his horse was loose the last time it reared up and hit someone's car. The ordinance states that the county legally owns the animal after 5 days. They told the owner yesterday if he came and paid \$150 they would release the horse to him, they would drop the impound fees and he could set up payments for the second citation. He lives on 325 E off of 200 N by Rose Acres. The horse made it to Goins Auction Barn in Butlerville (about 3 miles). Discussion is held. Matt said to give him until Monday to pay the fee and pick up the horse. If they do not hear from him by then, the horse will be county property.

County Commissioners

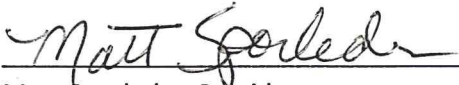
Page 4

September 10, 2020

Bob made the motion to adjourn. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



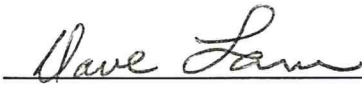
Tessia Salsman, Auditor



Matt Sporleder, President



Bob Willhite, Vice-President



Dave Lane